

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01

AID-20 SCA-01 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 111203Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9904

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET CHARGE IOURI CHMANEVSKI

1. SOVIET CHARGE IOURI CHMANEVSKI CAME TO SEE ME TODAY WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENT TO DISCUSS US-SOV POLICY TOWARD LAOS AND MY RECENT CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON.

2. I INFORMED CHMANEVSKI THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTED PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA IN HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. I SAID THAT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAD IN THE PAST. THERE WAS CONCERN IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO PATHET LAO NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL, SPECIFICALLY, THE NON-WITHDRAWAL OF NVA FORCES, THE NON-RETURN OF POW EMMET KAY, THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE MIA ISSUE, THE TENOR AND CONTENT OF PATHET LAO PROPAGANDA AND, MOST RECENTLY, ON THE ILLEGAL DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN ROBERT GIBSON.

3. CHMANEVSKI SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW AMERICAN AND SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN LAOS WERE SIMILAR. BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HOPED

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TO SEE LAOS REUNIFIED AND WE BOTH HOPED TO SEE A NEUTRAL AND

INDEPENDENT LAOS. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WAR, IT WAS NATURAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUSPICION AND MISTRUST ON BOTH SIDES AND ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PATIENT IN THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF PROGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY. THE LAO WERE NEVER PUNCTUAL AND THE PROPAGANDA OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.

4. I STATED THAT THE U.S. WAS BEING PATIENT AND UNDERSTOOD THE SLOWNESS WITH WHICH DEVELOPMENTS WERE LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE. THE PROBLEM WITH PATHET LAO PROPAGANDA WAS BASICALLY WHETHER THE PL THEMSELVES BELIEVED THE NONSENSE THEY WERE SPOUTING. CHMANEVSKI DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY BUT REPEATED THAT SUSPICIONS AND MISTRUSTS WERE VERY NATURAL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. TURNING TO RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, WE DISCUSSED THE CREATION OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE FRONT. CHMANEVSKI SAID THAT HE BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS A VERY NATURAL DEVELOPMENT AS THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE VIENTIANE SIDE HAD RESULTED IN ITS LOSING GROUND DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. I NOTED THAT I BELIEVED THE VIENTIANE SIDE WAS SEEKING TO CREATE A BROADLY BASED MOVEMENT AND THAT THE FRONT WAS NOT COMPOSED OF A CLIQUE OF REACTIONARY OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS. WHILE I UNDERSTOOD THE SUSPICIONS OF THE PATHET LAO, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEY REALIZED THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE TOO HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS REGARDING THEIR INTENTIONS.

6. THIS VERY AMICABLE MEETING ENDED WITH CHMANEVSKI AND I EXPRESSING OUR MUTURAL DESIRE TO STAY IN TOUCH IN COMING WEEKS. WHITEHOUSE

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